

BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION for LISTED, PROPOSED, AND SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

For the
CROOKED RIVER GAP FENCE EA #: OR-054-02-070

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Project Location: Prineville District BLM, Central Oregon Resource Area, along the North Fork Crooked River the proposed gap fences would be located on public lands and private lands within Townships 15 and 16 south, Ranges 21 and 22, Willamette Meridian (W.M.) Along the South Fork Crooked River, the proposed gap fences would be located on public lands within Township 18 and 19 South, Ranges 22 and 23 E., W.M.

Project Description: Build 14 new sections of gap fencing along approximately 17 river miles of the North Fork of the Crooked River. Approximately 2.5 miles of gap fencing is proposed within or adjacent to the river canyon (1.3 miles on the east and 1.2 miles on the west side of the river canyon). Build 2 new sections of gap fencing along approximately 14 river miles of the South Fork of the Crooked River. Approximately 0.6 miles of new construction of gap fencing is proposed within or adjacent to this river canyon area.

Constructed sections of fence will connect naturally occurring geographic barriers (cliffs) that currently have gaps between them. Once in place fences will exclude the use of existing gaps by wild horses and livestock for accessing the river bottom.

Summary of Conclusion of Effects to Listed and Special Status Species (NA = No Action, PA = Proposed Action)

Wildlife Species	Listing	Habitat	NA	PA
Northern bald eagle	threatened	✓	NE	NLAA
Canada Lynx	threatened			
Northern Spotted Owl	threatened			
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	federal candidate			
Washington Ground Squirrel	federal candidate			
Oregon Spotted Frog	federal candidate			
Northern Goshawk	sensitive	✓	NI	NI
Ferruginous Hawk	sensitive			
American Peregrine Falcon	sensitive	✓	NI	NI
Flammulated Owl (BM)	sensitive	✓	NI	NI
Northern Pygmy owl (BM)	sensitive	✓	NI	NI
Burrowing Owl	sensitive			
White-headed Woodpecker	sensitive	✓	NI	NI
Black-backed Woodpecker (BM)	sensitive			
Three-Toed Woodpecker (BM)	sensitive			
Lewis' Woodpecker	sensitive	✓	NI	NI
Pygmy Nuthatch (BM)	sensitive	✓	NI	NI
Townsend's Big-eared Bat	sensitive	✓	NI	NI
Fisher	sensitive			
Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse	sensitive			
Greater Sage Grouse	sensitive	✓	NI	NI
Harlequin Duck	sensitive			
Upland Sandpiper	sensitive			
Purple Martin	sensitive			
Yellow Rail	sensitive			
Painted Turtle	sensitive			
Western Pond Turtle	sensitive			
Northern Leopard Frog	sensitive			
Cope's Giant Salamander	assessment			
Tricolored Blackbird (HP)	assessment			
Pygmy Rabbit	assessment			
Brazilian Free-Tailed Bat	assessment			
Spotted Bat	assessment			

Project Design Criteria	Action
BALD EAGLE	
CRITERIA I	
a ¹	C
b ¹	C
b ²	C
b ³	C
b ⁴	C
c ¹	C
c ²	C
c ³	C
c ⁴	C
c ⁵	C
c ⁶	C
c ⁷	C
CRITERIA II	
a ¹	C

C = Project is Consistent with specified PDC
N/NLAA = Not consistent with specified PDC but a finding of Not Likely to Adversely Effect was reached
N = Not Consistent with specified PDC
(See Analysis of Significance of Effects section)

(BM) = Blue Mountains Area only (HP) = High Lava Plains Area only

Determination for Federally Listed & Proposed Species

NE No Effect
NLAA May Effect - Not Likely to Adversely Affect
LAA* May Effect - Likely to Adversely Affect
BE Beneficial Effect

Determination for Special Status Species

NI No Impact
MIIH May Impact Individuals or Habitat, but will not likely contribute to a trend towards federal listing or loss of viability to the population or species
WIFV* Will Impact Individuals or habitat with a consequence that the action may contribute to a trend towards federal listing or cause a loss of viability to the population or species
BI Beneficial Impact

*Trigger for a Significant Action As Defined In NEPA